Amendments to the Specification

a.   Please replace the Abstract with the following replacement Abstract marked up to show changes made.

One embodiment disclosed relates to a method of fault recovery by a switch in a local area network. A link failure is detected at a port of the switch. In response to the link failure detection, a <u>medium access control (MAC)</u> address table of the switch is cleared. Clearing the address table causes a discovery process to fill the table to begin immediately. In addition, a link on another port of the switch may be dropped to propagate the link failure.

b.   Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 8-10 with the following replacement paragraph marked up to show changes made.

STP defines a tree that spans all switches in an extended network and forces select redundant data paths into a standby or blocked state. If one segment of the network becomes unreachable, STP can ~~re-establishes~~ <u>re-establish</u> a link to that segment by activating a standby path.

c.   Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 3-4 with the following replacement paragraph marked up to show changes made.

FIG. 1A is a diagram [[of]] depicting a simple network topology for discussion purposes.

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d.   Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 13-16 with the following replacement paragraph marked up to show changes made.

FIG. 1A is a diagram [[of]] depicting a simple network topology for discussion purposes. Depicted are a number of networking switches S, A, B, C, D, and E. In this example, the switches are interconnected together in a ring topology. Switch S may be particularly configured to implement STP.

e.   Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 23-29 with the following replacement paragraph marked up to show changes made.

Such a ring should have a port somewhere in the series [[the]] that operates in a "blocked" mode. Such a blocked port does not pass packets so that a correct Ethernet topology without looping exists. The control of which port is blocked is determined by logic to manage operating the network and to facilitate recovery from faults. In this example, the ring topology network is initially configured such that the link between switch S and switch E is blocked or in a standby state. This prevents an undesirable loop from being present.